Decreasing availability of land due to use of Chemicals

†3127. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that per capita availability of land is decreasing constantaly, due to use of chemicals and insecticides;

(b) if so, whether Geologists and agricultural scientists have insisted to control this tendency;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the policy made/decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no evidence as to per capita availability of land is decreasing due to use of chemicals and insecticides in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assistance for poultry farming in A.P.

3128. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing 100 per cent Central assistance for strengthening poultry farming in States;

(b) if so, how much financial assistance has been provided to the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance for poultry farming in villages and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) During the Xth Plan this Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farm' to strengthen the Poultry Farms of the State Government. The scheme will be implemented in all the States/UTs of the country. The pattern of assistance will be 100 per cent for North Eastern States including Sikkim and 80:20 Center to State basis for other States.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) So far no proposal has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government under this Scheme.

(c) The State farms assisted in the scheme will maintain only low input technology birds and will supply their chicks with the target group mostly limited to only marginal farmers, landless labourers, women in groups and other socially backward sector of the society in the villages. There is also provision in the scheme to provide training to the farmers.

Agriculture Insurance Corporation

3129. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India is set to become a reality by January, 2003;

(b) whether earlier schemes like Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) were full of shortcomings and needed to be reviewed; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this case, the advantages and the need for the new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir. Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. is being promoted by General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC); National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, four Public Sector General Insurance companies and is expected to become operational from Janury, 2003.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. some shortcomings such as inadequate coverage of farmers, scrops, risk commitment, large unit area of insurance etc. were noticed in erstwhile Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). To overcome these shortcomings and on the demands of the States/ Union Territories, the Government of India introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 season.

During the course of implementation of NAIS for 3 years, some suggestions like limiting the sum insured upto Rs. 50,000/-, retaining 50% premia subsidy to small and marginal farmers, rationalization of premia structure, coverage of perennial crops etc. were received from